Scouting About

News from the South African Scout Association.

www.scouting.org.za

SCOUTS South Africa

Member of the World Organisation of the Scout Movement

0860SCOUTS

Autumn 2013

THE DRAFT OF THE NEW SCOUTS SOUTH AFRICA CONSTITUTION AND ORGANISATIONAL RULES

There have been many queries around the development and progress of the revitalisation of Scouting in South Africa, known as "RevIt". The Steering Committee is glad to announce that the new SCOUTS South Africa Constitution, new Organisational Rules and the Transition Document which will be the 'RevIt roll out plan' is ready to be proposed to the National Scout Council in June for approval.

The finalisation of the draft proposal of the SCOUTS South Africa Constitution, the Operational Rules and the Transition Document, that will be voted on at the NSC, is the result of many months of discussions and input from many volunteers in the various provinces and lots of dedication from members. Each member of Council and, through the Provincial Commissioners, Provincial Chairmen and National Commissioners, every individual has had access to the Steering Committee for clarification and comment. It is apparent that many have worked their way meticulously through the Constitution and the Operational Rules.

In June the National Scout Council will meet and decide on the Constitution, Organisational Rules and Transition document. Once approved, they will be our new way forward and will be available online and will be sent out in the June Announcements. This should then leave you in no doubt as to what the philosophy or intentions of any aspect of Rev-It might be.

On behalf of the Steering Committee, I want to thank all those who have done so much to bring this challenge to fruition.

Garnet de la Hunt
National Scout Council Chairman
Chairman of the Rev-It Steering Committee

CONGRATULATIONS

SPRINGBOK SCOUTS

Dean Glennie – Eastern Cape
Gregory Weeks – Gauteng
Graham McRea – Gauteng
Jennifer Petzer – Gauteng
Devon Corlett – Gauteng
Andreas Conrads – KwaZulu Natal
Rudi Wies – KwaZulu Natal
Steffen Wies – KwaZulu Natal
Paul Roux – Western Cape

The motions for the National Scout Council are published on the SCOUTS South Africa website.

ANNUAL CHALLENGE 2013 "CHILDREN'S RIGHTS".

On the 21st of March we celebrated Human Rights Day. As members of the Scouting Movement we have promised to practice good citizenship, which implies respecting the rights of others. We have also promised to fulfil a duty to God, to others and to ourselves. This year's Annual Challenge provides members with the opportunity to learn more about their rights and that of South African children. Click here to see the Cub Annual Challenge, Scout Annual Challenge and Rover Annual Challenge.

To book the use of "Rotary Scout" contact Evan Smuts at evan.smuts@gmail.com

Messengers of Peace

A PROJECT

Forgotten Children – South Africa Scouts are battling to diminish the terrible impact of HIV/AIDS in Sub Saharan Africa, engaging in programmes that aim to minimize infection and help families.

The ravaging impact of HIV/AIDS, affecting more than 22 million people in Sub Saharan Africa, is well documented. Less well known is the work of Scouts throughout the continent who are engaged in projects and programmes to minimise infection and to help families and communities struggling with the disease. Especially as the traditional family support network, already affected by endemic poverty, is stretched to breaking point.

World Scout Foundation

SCOUTS WIN 'RALLY CLASS' IN THE GOVERNOR'S CUP YACHT RACE 2012/13

The JML Rotary Scout yacht joined a fleet of 18 craft in the 2012/13 Governor's Cup Yacht Race to St Helena Island. The Scouts and Scouters on board were: **Tyler-John Brady** (1st Jamestown Scout Group, St. Helena Island), **Sean Parker** (1st Muizenberg), **Daniel Frieslaar** (1st Bergvliet), **Michael Hardy** (1st Muizenberg), **Lorraine Le Seur** (1st Durbanville/ Kraaifontein) and adult co-skippers **Stephen Jennings** and **Peter Bosch**. Unfortunately **David Joshua** of St Jamestown Troup was unable to take part.

It took the crew 12 days to sail to St Helena Island where they won the Rally Class of the race – winning a second trophy for being the first False Bay Yacht Club entry over the line. "It was the best and most exciting thing I've ever done!" said Lorraine enthusiastically. "I learnt so much about sailing and team work! When it came to cooking dinner, we had a choice between canned food and catching our own fish. It was a team effort and in total we caught 12 of them," laughs Lorraine.

"It was the first time I sailed out in the South Atlantic Ocean for days on end," says Daniel. "You lose track of time and days while in the open sea. It was a very exciting experience that I really enjoyed!"

The yacht had a spectacular broach in the early hours of the 2nd last day of the race, ending up with one of the spinnakers being blown to shreds. "We were in second place and decided to leave the Spinnaker up, the wind picked up and the spinnaker tore to bits," explained Daniel. "However, we stayed focussed and worked as a team and soon had the situation under control again."

When asked if they would like to do this again, Lorraine replied "It was tough but I would do it again anytime!" "Definitely!" said Daniel, "I would recommend this experience to everyone, but you need to make sure that you are physically and mentally fit and well prepared!"

IS YOUR 'MoP' PROJECT REPORTED?

The Founder's Day events last month saw a tremendous exchange of digital information on social media celebrating the birthday of Baden-Powell – our Founder – and reinforcing the solidarity of the Scout Movement across the world. It was also a reminder that despite the changes in media and all the tremendous growth of Information and Communications Technologies (ICT), the messages behind it always remain true to the founding values of the great Movement we are all part of.

It is also important that we take time to reflect and celebrate the successes of World Scouting's flagship initiative, the Messengers of Peace (MoP). The MoP Online Platform 'scoutmessengers.org' has now collated over 10,000,000 (10 million) service hours by Scouts worldwide consisting of community projects that have been registered on the website. While we cross this important key figure, it gives me the opportunity to highlight some projects from Africa aiming to reduce election violence (Kenya and Ghana), which hogged the limelight to showcase the benefits of Messengers of Peace initiatives. Please visit scout.org/news to read more about how these projects have contributed to the 10 million service hours clocked by the MoP Online Platform.

In case you have not yet registered your service project, please visit scoutmessengers.org and add your hours and your project. I am confident that not long from now, we will be celebrating the achievement of the 100 million hours mark.

If you do not have internet access, post your report to Nosisa at P.O. Box 374, Newlands 7725 and she will see that your service hours are joined to those millions of hours as a messenger of peace.

SCOUTING FOR BOYS - the start of it all.

When last did you pick up a copy and thumb through that book? Have you or your Scouts ever been encouraged to read it? Hundreds of thousands of copies lie around in Scout dens and libraries while the pages turn yellow. I have a collection of a number of editions starting with the very first bound copy – price 1/- - that's right "one shilling" – today's 10c but I suppose worth a bit more than it does now.

I am looking at the Forward of one edition, written by B-P in 1932, and it starts: "I was a boy once. The best time I had as a boy was when I went about as a sea scout with my four brothers on the sea round the coast of England. Not that we were real Sea Scouts, because Sea Scouts weren't invented in those days. But we had a sailing boat of our own which we lived and cruised about, at all seasons and in all weathers, and we had a jolly good time – taking the rough with the smooth."

"Then in my spare time as a schoolboy I had a good lot of scouting in the woods in the way of catching rabbits and cooking them, observing birds and tracking animals, and so on. Later on when I got into the Army, I had endless fun big-game hunting in the jungles of India and Africa and living among the backwoodsmen in Canada."

"Well I enjoyed all this kind of life so much that I thought, "Why should not boys at home get some taste of it too?"I knew that every true red-blooded boy is keen for adventure and open air life, and so I wrote this book to show you how it could be done. And you fellows have taken it up so readily that now there are not only hundreds of thousands of Boy Scouts but millions about the world! ….."

SOME STATISTICS that I don't think even B-P could have imagined.

I have always been in wonder of the size and growth of the World Scout Movement. We say to the newly Invested Cub or Scout, "You are now the 30,000,001st member of the Scout Movement!", but in reality that is a figure the young Cub or Scout just cannot grasp. Would it not be better to say, "You are now a member of the greatest youth movement in the world!" Then maybe say; "There are Scouts and Cubs in more than 161 countries and they speak every language there is, all making a similar promise to the one you have just made."

We celebrated our centenary in 2007, but in fact we were not 100 years old until 2008. Scouting is dated from B-P's Brownsea Island camp on 1st August 1907, so only England can say Scouting started in their country on that date. B-P then wrote his book which took some time to reach the rest of the world, and the countries that first got their hands on it were the countries of the British Empire as it was then. In 1908, South Africa was one of those – Australia – New Zealand - Ireland – Malta. Then a year later, Canada – India – Guyana – Sierra Leone. The first foreign lands to take up Scouting in 1909, Belerus – Chili – Denmark.

On a lawn at "Gilwell Park" in the UK, stands a magnificent bronze statue of an American Bison, commemorating a Boy Scout and how Scouting reached the USA.

One day in 1909 in London, an American visitor, William D. Boyce, lost his way in a dense fog. He stopped under a lamp and tried to figure out where he was. A boy approached him and asked if he could be of help. Mr. Boyce told the boy he wanted to find a business office in the city. "I'll take you there," said the boy. When they got to the destination, Mr. Boyce reached into his pocket for a tip. "No thank you sir. I'm a Scout. I won't take anything for helping."

The boy told the American about himself and about his brother scouts. Mr. Boyce became very interested. He then asked to be taken to the British Scouting Office where he met Baden-Powell. After a discussion, he was so impressed that he was determined to take Scouting to the United States.

What became of that young Scout? No one knows his name or whereabouts. His Good Turn helped to bring Scouting to 104 million American boys since 1910.

Russian Scouting was founded in 1910 but disappeared after the revolution in 1917. Scouting flourished in the entire European continent but as soon as a country came under the Russian influence, scouting was extinguished. Today with Russian Communism a thing of the past, Scouting is once again functioning in those countries, and in Russia itself. Mainland China has been re-registered in 2008, for Venturers (15 yr olds) and Rovers for both genders.

Numbers? I am looking at two sets of figures from 2010, the last full census taken. Indonesia - 17,103,793 on one – 8,103,835 on the other. Amazing, whichever figure you take, that is the country with the largest number of Scout members. The USA will argue – 5,970,203 Boy Scouts, there are also 3,200.000 Girl Scouts in that country. India – 2,886,460. Philippines - 1,464,765. Thailand – 1,257,645. Bangladesh – 1,015,116. The UK 446,557. In Africa; Kenya – 323,929, 61 Scouts in the Principality of Monaco and so on and so on.

One of my references says there are only five countries in the world that do not have Scouting. Most probably because their leader, a dictator in some cases, can't have the people of that country thinking for themselves and of their futures, as Scouting encourages us to do.

We have something to be proud of, and it's up to each and every one of us to make sure that, in our small compartment of Scouting, we do the very best job we can for our wonderful movement.

SCOUTS South Africa on Marion Island

John Lucas from Scouting Western Cape and Wiam Haddad a Rover of Gauteng represented SCOUTS South Africa while conducting research on Marion Island.

WHAT'S IT WORTH

I take the liberty of adapting a BSA, Eagle Scout presentation for South African conditions:

"The Springbok Badge. The highest rank a Scout can earn. What is it worth? Well in Rands and cents its about R12.00. Just a piece of cloth embroidered by some firm and sold to SAHQ. But what is it really worth to you?"

"Think back to the time when you first became a Scout. Remember the Scout skills that you learned each time you progressed? The Personal Growth Agreement and the re-dedication to the Scout Law and Promise, as you advanced. Think of the service you have given to your Troop and other people. Is your Springbok Badge worth R12? Of course not! Your Springbok Badge is priceless. It represents everything that you have learned, everything that you have done, to be prepared, to help others, and to help yourself. So now you stand on the peak of the mountain. A Springbok Scout. Now look ahead, look sharp. Way out there in the mist is another mountain, and there below is the trail to your future. It might be a long trail, or a short one, but it leads to that mountain far away. As you walk down the trail, and as the years roll by, and finally reach the end, we all hope that you can look back on the trail of life and be able and proud to say, "I have done my best."

Ack: Webmaster at Eaglescout.org

SCOUTS WORK WITH COMMUNITY TO ALLEVIATE HUNGER

Twenty four Scouts and Scouters from the Mpeta Group in the Eastern Cape united with thirty seven community members to establish and maintain an indigenous plant and vegetables garden at their school. The project was funded by the German Scout Association DPSG.

Not only did they work together with members of the community to prepare the soil and create sways for water management, but they also went out into the wild to identify and collect indigenous plants. The indigenous plant garden will serve as an educational tool for the school to teach its learners about the local vegetation.

As for the vegetable garden, it will provide nutritious food for the learners of the school. A spin off of the project has been that some of the Scouts and learners that were involved in establishing the garden at school, now also grow vegetables at home, which aids in the alleviation of hunger for their families.

The Scouts are now thinking beyond this initial garden and are planning to start a nursery where they can produce seedlings to maintain the garden and allow for other people to do this at home too.

SCOUTS "REPRESENTED" AT THE CAPE ARGUS PICK 'N PAY CYCLE TOUR

On the 10th of March 2013 many cycling enthusiasts put the power to the pedal and cycled over 110 km through the scenic Cape.

Howard Little, the district commissioner of CW 22 Kanonkop represented SCOUTS South Africa by wearing the very first cycling kit ever produced in the branded colours.

The Cape Argus Pick 'n Pay cycle tour is the largest individually timed cycling event in the world. It started in 1978 to raise awareness about the lack of bike paths in South Africa. Currently it is one of the most popular cycling events in the country.

Contributions can be:
Posted to: The Editor, P.O. Box 1733, Port Elizabeth 6000
Faxed to: 041 585 8513
Email to: scout101@marinelitho.co.za
Editor: Colin Stretton - Tel: 041 585 1147